

August 1, 1967

SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE POSTURE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by House Resolution 124, I hereby appoint a special subcommittee to conduct a full and thorough inquiry into various phases of our national security. The subcommittee will be composed of the following Members:

Mr. Hardy, Chairman	Mr. Halleck
Mr. Hebert	Mr. Dickinson
Mr. Stratton	

Mr. Bates and I will serve as ex officio Members.

The subcommittee will proceed immediately to determine the status of plans, including contingency plans, for achieving a military victory in Southeast Asia; the ability of our armed forces to simultaneously meet present commitments in Southeast Asia, as well as treaty obligations, including the availability of military equipment and present and projected force levels. In this connection, the subcommittee will inquire into the existence of "shortages" in equipment and/or personnel, as well as the extent to which they may be affected or "eliminated" by directed reductions in requirements, tables of organization, combat support inventories, manning levels, and reserve stocks.

In addition, the subcommittee will inform itself with respect to projected time estimates for achieving a military victory in Southeast Asia, if a plan exists for such a victory, and the number of military personnel required to achieve either a military victory or the cessation of hostilities and in the establishment of a viable government in South Vietnam.

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The subcommittee will also ascertain the extent to which our naval vessels require replacement, modernization, or weapons' improvements; the present status of major weapons systems previously authorized and funded; and the existence of any plans, studies or recommendations that may affect the assigned roles and missions of each of the four Services.

For the purposes of the inquiry herein directed, the subcommittee will be vested with the authority granted and conferred in House Resolution 124 in the conduct of said inquiry. All witnesses testifying before the subcommittee will be sworn.

I hope it will be possible for the subcommittee to complete its hearings prior to the convening of the Second Session of the 90th Congress.

L. Mendel Rivers
Chairman

LMR:jbs